(d) A proposal has been received from the State Government for starting 150 vocational sections in 50 schools during 1993-94. However, this proposal will be considered when the State Government starts the sections previously sanctioned.

Training of Teachers in Punjab

2326. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a mass orientation programme for training teachers was undertaken by Government in 1987—92;

(b) if so, the number of teachers trained so far from Punjab under the scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that during 1992-93 less teachers from Punjab were trained; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Programme of Mass Orientation of School Teachers (PMOST) was organised during the period 1986—90.

(b) 65288 teachers from Punjab were trained under this programme.

(d) The programme was discontinued in 1990.

(c) Does not arise.

Non-formal Education Scheme in Punjab

2327. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to unstarred question 745 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th July, 1993 and state:

(a) what are the reasons for non-introduction of non-formal education in Punjab;

(b) whether Government propose to start the scheme; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The Scheme of Non-formal Education provides for coverage of 10 Educationally Backward States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and also urban slums, hilly, desert and tribal areas and areas of concentration of working children in all other States/UTs. The State Government of Punjab has not so far sent any proposal to introduce this scheme in the State of Punjab. A decision can be taken as per the prescribed norms of the scheme as and when proposals are received from the Government of Punjab.

Schools covered under Operation Blackboard in M.P.

2328. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of primary schools in Madhya Pradesh which were provided essential facilities under the scheme Operation Blackboard;

(b) what is the total number of blocks covered during 92-93 in the State; and

(c) how many blocks are likely to be covered under the scheme during 93-94?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION & DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) 64722

(b) 114

(c) All the 459 blocks have already been covered in Madhya Pradesh under the scheme.

Yoga in Schools of Madhya Pradesh

2329. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a centrally sponsored scheme of Yoga in schools was formulated in April, 1989;

(b) if so, what are the main features of this scheme; and

(c) the extent to which this scheme has been introduced in Madhya Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION & DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Introduction of Yoga in Schools was formulated

in April, 1989. The scheme was revised in December, 1992. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided to State/UTs as well as Yoga Institutions of repute for Teacher training including TA/DA to teacher trainees, upgradation of library facilities and construction/ expansion of hostels for teacher trainees. In addition, Yoga Institutions of All India character will also be given financial assistance for maintenance as well as development expenditure for promotion of basic research and/or for teacher training programmes in various aspects of Yoga other than the therapeutical aspects.

(c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh was sanctioned Rs. 12,93,250/- during 1990-91 and 1991-92 for implementation of the scheme.

Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools in M.P.

2330. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) project was initiated in 1984-85 jointly by the Department of Electronics and the Education Department;

(b) if so, whether the project has been extended on year to year basis;

(c) what is the number of schools in Madhya Pradesh where BBC Micros were installed so far; and

(d) by when all the schools in Madhya Pradesh are likely to be provided the computer education?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Upto 1989-90, 145 Secondary/Senior Secondary Schools have been covered under the Project in Madhya Pradesh. No new schools have been added since 1990-91.

(d) During the 8th Plan, a modified strategy is likely to be adopted for which a budget provision of Rs. 146 crores has been suggested. With this provision, it will not be possible to cover more than 1500 Senior Secondary Schools in the country. To cover all the schools in the country, considerable time and resources are required. The schools will, therefore, be covered in a phased manner depending upon the availability of resources in the subsequent Plan periods.

Science Improvement Scheme in M.P.

2331. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 741 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th July, 1993 and state;

(a) the progress made so far with regard to the implementation of science improvement scheme in M.P.: and

(b) the areas in M.P. covered since its introduction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 'Improvement of Science Education in Schools', a sum of Rs. 6,65,38,900/- has, so far, been sanctioned to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for the following purposes:

- Provision of science kits to 6,291 upper primary schools;
- Setting up of new laboratories in 650 secondary/senior secondary schools;
- Supply of books on science related subjects for upgradation of libraries in 625 secondary/senior secondary schools and;
- Organisation of 140 programmes for training of science and mathematics teahers.

All the districts have been covered partially.

Uniform Age Limit for Admission in Schools

2332. CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that age limits in different schools compel children in some cases to be sent to school at a very premature age; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to prescribe any uniform age limit for all schools?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Minimum age for admission to class I of the primary stage is generally 5 + or 6 + years. States/Union Territories wise details are given in the enclosed statement.